

Winter 2002

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

Roads Analysis Open House Meetings Scheduled for February



You are invited to assist the Gifford Pinchot National Forest with a roads analysis process that will help identify an affordable roads system that meets public, and resource needs. A series of evening [meetings](#) will be held in Morton, Vancouver and Stevenson on February 19, 20 and 21 to explain this process. This review of the current Forest road system will help Forest staff meet future administrative objectives, such as managing a road system that is safe and responsive to public needs and desires, is affordable and reduces adverse environmental effects. The results of this analysis will help the Forest set priorities for road maintenance funds and make recommendations for future uses and needs for Forest roads. This process will not result in any immediate closure or decommissioning of Forest roads. Comments will be accepted through March 22, 2002. For more information call 360-891-5001.

Resource Advisory Committees to Accept Projects

Two new advisory committees for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will help allocate money for new Forest projects. The two Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) are authorized by "The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000," which provides for federal payments to counties with federal lands. Resource Advisory Committees will review and recommend projects to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest totaling \$1,375,224 during fiscal year 2002. The public is invited to propose projects for improving the Gifford Pinchot National Forest under this new payments to counties legislation.

Gifford Pinchot Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel described the RACs as "an exciting partnership between the Forest Service and counties that will benefit watersheds, rural communities, and forest ecosystems."

The RACs will review proposed projects which will enhance streams and watersheds, maintain roads and trails, control noxious weeds, improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve forest and ecosystem health. For more information visit the Forest website. www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/county_payments

Historic Cispus River Bridge Collapses



During recent flooding on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, the Cispus River Bridge met its demise. The Cispus Valley Bridge was built in the summer of 1939 by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees from nearby Camp Lower Cispus. It spanned the Cispus River just north of the Tower Rock Campground. The bridge was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with the CCC and because it was the longest single-span wooden Howe truss bridge remaining in the state of Washington. The bridge was closed to vehicle traffic in 1989. From 1940 to 1953, this bridge was the primary means of access to the Forest by Cispus Valley residents. During the storm in early January, the Forest road crew moved swiftly to ensure the safety of Forest visitors by checking for slides and quickly repairing and removing debris from several Forest roads.

Forest Service Employees Called to Serve at "Ground Zero"

Several Gifford Pinchot National Forest employees recently spent time in service and support at "Ground Zero" in New York City. Mike Matarrese, fire staff officer, and Jeff Tanasse, fleet manager of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, along with former GP employee, Carol Smedley spent several weeks in New York. They said they were honored and humbled to be able to serve as part of this effort. In a recent interview with the Vancouver *Columbian* Carol Smedley said this about her time at "Ground Zero." "I was glad they called me. Like most people I wanted to do something to help."



How to reach us:

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Cowlitz Valley Ranger District
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**Packwood Work and
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Mt. Adams Ranger District
2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
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**Wind River Work and
Information Center**
1262 Hemlock Road
Carson, WA 98610
(509) 427-3200
FAX: (509) 427-3215
TTY: (509) 427-4541

**Mount St. Helens National
Volcanic Monument**
42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800
FAX: (360) 449-7801
TTY: (360) 449-7802

**Mount St. Helens
Visitor Center: Silver Lake**
3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
24-hr. recording (360) 274-2103
(360) 274-2100
FAX: (360) 274-2101
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center
Located at MP 43
(360) 274-2131
FAX: (360) 274-2129
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Johnston Ridge Observatory
Located at MP 52
(360) 274-2140

Internet:

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf

Historic Guard Station for Rent this Summer



The Civilian Conservation Corps built the newly restored Government Mineral Springs Guard Station, located north of Carson, Wash., in 1937. Nestled in a grove of towering old-growth firs, the cabin has two bedrooms, a kitchen, and living room with fireplace. The cabin is located near Trapper Creek Wilderness trailheads and close to Sno-Parks for

winter recreation access. To reserve a night starting in June, call 509-427-3200. For more information about this site and other Forest Service cabins and lookouts, visit the [Forest web site](#) and click on cabin rentals.

Packwood Honored with Spirit Award



On December 10, the community of Packwood, Wash., was honored with the Forest Service's national Spirit Award during a ceremony at the Packwood community center. Destination Packwood Association (DPA), a local community economic development organization, was the only recipient of this year's Spirit Award. As part of the award, the community received a \$5,000 grant. "Destination Packwood has been a real beacon for this community and a wonderful partner for the Forest," said Claire Lavendel, Gifford Pinchot National Forest Supervisor.

Winter Activities on Your National Forest

- **Winter Festival:** The 4th Annual Winter Festival at Oldman Pass, on the Wind River Highway north of Carson, Wash. will take place on February 23 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. It will be a fun family outing for the day. Activities include sledding, skiing, snow shoeing and a snowman-building contest. Skamania County Parks and Recreation will have snowshoes available free that day for teenagers. Snowshoe rental for adults is \$18 for the weekend \$12 for one day. For youth sizes, they are \$6 for the day or \$12 for the weekend. Please bring your own skis and sleds. Refreshments will be available for purchase from local vendors. For more information call 509-427-9478.
- **New Parking Area at Marble Mountain:** If this is your first visit to the Marble Mountain Sno-Park this season, you will find a new parking lot across from the main entrance on Forest Road 8312. The [Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation](#) (IAC) cooperatively provided funding for this project along with the Forest Service and snowmobile volunteers. This is the first season for this new 65-car parking lot. This lot is open to single vehicles only, and provides direct access to the Wapati Ski Trails. The addition of this lot should help reduce crowding. No overnight parking is allowed in the new lot, but is permissible in the center of the upper lots near the warming shelter. Visitors using this new parking area need to back-in or head-in park. DO NOT park in the middle of the lot and DO NOT park in the cul de sac at the far end. This is a turn around area for equipment and other traffic.

Return Address:

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